

# The Chieftain

WEEKLY EDITION

D. M. MARRS, Publisher

VINITA, I. T., AUG. 27, 1903.

Et tu Bixby.

"It's Coked" is still angry.

The city of grafters—Muskogee.

Tams Bixby can also "look 'em in the eye."

Bill Arp, the great southern humorist, is dead.

Oklahoma is O. K., but the Indian Territory is I. T.

Yes, but the parks are being improved just the same.

The commercial club is working up and will do a few things.

The Indian Territory investigation is going on in the newspapers.

The knockers still knock in Missouri and in the Indian Territory.

If you think there is no building going on in Vinita, try to hire a carpenter.

Joe Folk is still ordering striped suits for Missouri Senators and other boodlers.

The vacation season is about over. Let all our young people get ready for school.

Douglas and Hitchcock have "made up," and are both after J. George Wright with a sharp stick.

Brosius, the sleuth of the Indian Rights Association, has not arrived in the territory yet, or is in disguise.

Dividends from a land company to a member of the Dawes Commission is like getting money from home.

The most unpopular man in official circles in the Indian Territory at the present time is S. M. Brosius.

Anent Indian Territory scandals, we have heard from Washington; now a word from Oyster Bay is in order.

A great deal would be added to the appearance of the parks by cutting the weeds around them on the outside.

The land office has been in operation less than seven months and about twelve thousand allotments have been made.

Joe McCoy left Muskogee at a "Lon Dillon" gait, before the papers containing an account of his resignation reached town.

The Commercial Club has again been awakened. If you have an interest in the town help the club in its endeavors to do things.

There are abundant evidences that the President will get busy with an interesting Indian Territory situation before long.—Dallas News.

Secretary Root, of the war department, has resigned and the president has appointed Judge Taft of the Philippine commission his successor.

The sentiment of the people of Vinita seems to be practically unanimous in favor of voting sufficient bonds for a system of water works and drainage.

Forty Indians from the Kiowa country are preparing to emigrate to the vicinity of Monterey, Mex., where an agent has selected some farming land for them.

Secretary Hitchcock it is said will require members of the Dawes Commission and others to withdraw from the land companies or else resign their positions.

Great pleasure is expressed among all classes of Vinita people at the prospect of waterworks and sewerage. The municipal government is being praised on every hand.

All Indian Territory officials may be hoveled at last. This fleeing the Indians may be only a

form of kleptomania. That is much softer work than straight stealing.

The Seneca Indians are celebrating their annual green corn dance this week. Formerly they burned a dog on this occasion but now leave that part of the ceremony off.

The Saturday Evening Post of this week says there is "graft" and "graft"—dishonest "graft" and "graft." The probabilities are the Indian Territory is afflicted with both kinds.

To appropriate the property of the Indians is growing to be a very popular fad. The craving to get hold of something without paying for it is a passion that don't have to be cultivated.

If it really turns out that federal officials in the Indian Territory are not allowed to beat the Indians out of a good slice of their lands there will be disappointment from "Dan to Beereheba."

A St. Petersburg scientist has found a gigantic mammoth, fresh and sweet enough to eat, which is estimated to have been frozen up for 20,000 years. Fine place for that Brosius report, eh boys?

The Indian Territory has a great deal to be thankful for after all the stir of the evil doing of a few officials. The country is prosperous and the year taken as a whole is going to be a good one.

There has been no more active agent in the up-building of Vinita for the last twenty-one years than the Chieftain, and it don't expect to be out done in this respect during the next twenty-one years.

President Roosevelt has been a special Indian inspector and hence is prepared for all sorts of developments. Not being a politician by trade, but rather a statesman, strenuous action may be expected.

The next photograph to be expected, if the Washington dispatches state the truth, will contain the faces of both Secretary Hitchcock and Clarence Douglas. The latter is, however, still in the air, as it were.

It now transpires that governor W. E. Stanley, the new member of the Dawes commission, is the vice president of a big trust company in the Indian Territory. Old Senator Dawes will turn over in his grave now sure.

"Awful punishment to resign office, but does it even make wrong right?" enquires the red line on the Kansas City Journal. This query presumably relates to the resignation of Joseph McCoy as assistant attorney in the western district, under W. M. Mellette.

The Muskogee correspondent of the Kansas City Journal quotes an Indian Territory official, who is not interested in any trust companies, as saying that an investigation would reveal no crime only indiscretion. That sort of thing may be very properly designated the "baby act."

It is worthy of remark that amid all the charges and counter-charges of corruption in the Indian Territory the name of Judge Joseph A. Gill has not been mentioned. Judge Gill is content with filling the office to which he was appointed without embarking in questionable enterprises.

The Dawes commission has ruled that a Cherokee-Creek child born too late for the Creek rolls and whose mother had chosen to take her citizenship with the Creek nation, might be enrolled as a Cherokee. The Cherokee attorneys have taken an appeal to the Secretary of the Interior.

The latest regulation of the secretary provides that when an allottee in the Creek nation desires to sell or lease his land he must notify J. Geo. Wright who will direct an appraisal. Should bids are then invited and if the price equals or exceeds the appraisal the contract is approved.

Judge Raymond, having succeeded in subduing the attorneys who practice in his court has turned his attention to the merchants and will soon have them "going south," or paying their tribal tax, differing with Judge Clayton in the Choctaw tax case. Troublesome fellow, that Raymond.

It is said J. Blair Shoenfelt, the agent at Union agency at Muskogee, has been offered stock in trust companies as a gift and has refused, and that he don't own the house he lives in. That's nothing; we know people who refuse to own anything in their own names for fear their creditors might step in and take it.

A sensational story has been coming from below of the kidnapping of a white girl near Ft. Gibson by several negroes. Two negroes are in jail at this place for complicity in the alleged abduction. It looks as though the girl, aged 12, may be the daughter of a white woman living with a negro named Hicks, who was one of the bunch, part of which Deputy Rogers captured on an island in the Arkansas. The girl is said to be demented.

The Cherokee council which meets in regular annual session the first Monday in November will find itself greatly handicapped for want of power to act, or to enforce its measures when enacted into law. Last year the president vetoed the most important act of the Cherokee council, the provision for a supplemental treaty dealing with the further allotment of land. The session will in all probability not be an exciting one by any means.

No end of righteous indignation has been aroused in all official circles by the Brosius report but there has been only a half hearted denial. Secretary Hitchcock is reported as being very indignant but is further reported as having stated that by his rejection of the Creek deeds he has profited the Indians in some cases several hundred per cent, the same buyers having raised their bids to that extent. The forwarding of these deeds was by official action and approval; they did not make their way to Washington by chance.

The decision of Judge Raymond in the Freedmen case at Muskogee yesterday in which the injunction against the Dawes Commission enjoining it from considering applications of freedmen in the Cherokee nation whose names do not appear on the authenticated rolls of 1880, they or their ancestors, is of no great importance. The decision will not secure the enrollment of a single freedman who cannot show that he has complied with the treaty of 1866. All those who returned to the Cherokee nation within the time specified are entitled to enrollment. Most of the freedmen cases have been decided by the Dawes Commission and only await the approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

Whatever is done with members of the Dawes Commission and others charged with being connected with land and trust companies, will all depend on whether it is a violation of the rules of the department. There is a great deal of incoherent talk about these things that may not mean much. There are many things practiced by officials in the territory that don't seem to be right, but whether they are to continue or not depends somewhat on the Secretary of the Interior. It is a violation of the law in Missouri and other states for judges and legislators to ride upon railroad passes, but here in the territory it is presumed almost every official from the obscure clerk to the highest officials all ride upon railroad passes. The roads are friendly to these people for some reason and desire their influence somewhere along the line. If all these things be done in a green tree what is done in the dry.

ABOUT LYNCHING.  
President Roosevelt's letter to the governor of Louisiana about

lynching is receiving large attention at the hands of the press.

"Every violent man in the community is encouraged by every case of lynching in which the lynchers go unpunished to himself take the law into his own hands whenever it suits his own convenience. In the same way the use of torture by the mob in certain cases is sure to spread until it is applied more or less indiscriminately in other cases. The spirit of lawlessness grows with what it feeds on and when mobs with impunity lynch criminals for one cause they are certain to begin to lynch real or alleged criminals for other causes."

But the trouble with this reasoning is that it does not go deep enough. The lamentable lack of promptness in the enforcement of the law is the real source of the trouble. Disrespect for law comes through seeing the law so often set aside and disregarded by those whose sworn duty it is to uphold it. The law's delay, equivocations, shifts and failure to punish men for crimes openly and brazenly committed, strengthen the hands of the lynchers. What is needed just now is good vigorous enforcement of the law. Nothing will inspire respect for law like having it understood that our laws, federal and municipal will be rigidly enforced. Lynching is often the result of the belief among the people that unspeakable crimes may go unpunished.

## INDIAN FRAUDS.

The St. Louis Republic, naturally conservative, published at the home of the Indian ring and especially friendly to its townsmen, Secretary Hitchcock, has this to say editorially:

"Since the settlement of the West began scandals in connection with 'Indian agents' have been rife. No doubt that in the forward press of the white man and by unscrupulous representatives of the government, the Indian was juggled out of much that was his due, and that the many charges of injustice have been well founded."

"But now, when the Indian is restricted to a limited area, when the reservations gradually are being encroached upon, that allegations of further misconduct should be insistently made is a matter of not only passing importance or of trifling 'graft.' The existing charges are that 'land grabbers,' with the knowledge and even connivance of government officials, have swindled many Indians out of their holdings."

"Secretary Hitchcock naturally resented an insinuation that he condoned improper practice. He completely disproved the suggestion. But with regard to the charges in general, the impression remains that more than one thing 'peculiar' has marked the administration of affairs in the territory. Full disclosures and conclusive proof have not been made as yet. Sufficient, however, is before the public to awaken a popular demand that the investigation begun by Secretary Hitchcock be unsparing and thorough."

## A CORRUPT SYSTEM

"Never yet lived the demagogue who would not take office." This epigram was the utterance of one of America's most brilliant statesmen a half a century ago, and it is as pertinent and true today as it was then. The whole of our government, the whole institutions of the country are prostrated to the use of the party.

The shameleness of official corruption in the Indian Territory is the outgrowth of that senseless unprincipled and barbarian motto that "to the victors belong the spoils." Public office, which was intended for the use and benefit of the people, has become the plunder of the party grafter. Patronage is viewed like a huge magnet over the whole land, and political lazaroni, like iron filings attracted by the law of their nature, gather and cluster around its poles. Office is conferred as the reward of party service and with little view to moral or intellectual fitness. The administration winks at corruption in high places as long as possible and when public exposure becomes inevitable gives the blunted plowder full warning and all we him to escape with the spoils or resign.

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Vinita's Time Tables.

KATY SOUTH BOUND.  
Train 1, Passenger..... 4:35 a.m.  
Train 5, Flyer..... 6:25 a.m.  
Train 3, Passenger..... 7:37 a.m.  
Train 6, Local..... 1:00 p.m.

KATY NORTH BOUND.  
Train 2, Passenger..... 11:10 a.m.  
Train 4, Flyer..... 9:45 a.m.  
Train 4, Passenger..... 10:21 a.m.  
Train 6, Local..... 11:50 a.m.

FRISCO GOING WEST  
Train 607, Passenger..... 11:50 a.m.  
Train 409, Meteor..... 1:17 a.m.  
Train 441, Local..... 1:25 a.m.

FRISCO GOING EAST  
Train 408, Passenger..... 5:15 p.m.  
Train 410, World's Fair Special..... 12:41 a.m.  
Train 440, Local..... 1:00 a.m.

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